

Application Number 10/784,124
Responsive to Office Action mailed November 2, 2007

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated November 2, 2007. Applicant has amended claim 26 and canceled claim 28. Claims 1, 4-15, 18-26, and 29-35 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 4-15 and 18-25 are allowed. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but including subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant assumes the Examiner intended to refer to claim 28 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form instead of claim 27, because claim 27 has previously been canceled, whereas claim 28 includes limitations found in allowed claim 1.

In this amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 26 to include all subject matter recited by (assumedly) allowable dependent claim 28, and has canceled claim 28. Consequently, claim 26 and the claims dependent therefrom (i.e., claims 29-35) are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner stated that line 5 of claim 26 was unclear. Applicant has amended claim 26 for purposes of clarification. Applicant submits that claim 26, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter, as required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26, 29-31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moore (US 6,714,121). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the extent such rejection may be considered applicable to the amended claims. As discussed above, Applicant has amended claim 26 to include all subject matter recited by

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(assumedly) allowable dependent claim 28. This amendment renders the Examiner's rejections of claims 26, 29-31 and 33 moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 32, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (US 6,714,121) in view of Kunz (US 6,127,989). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the extent such rejections may be considered applicable to the claims as amended. As discussed above, Applicant has amended claim 26 to include all subject matter recited by (assumedly) allowable dependent claim 28. This amendment renders the Examiner's rejections of claims 32, 34 and 35 moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

By:

January 30, 2008

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